GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:240
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2016
Mining Reforms
Nete Shri Ashok Mahadeorao

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has unleashed major reforms in mining sector so as to improve mining activities and extraction of granite in the country;
(b) the quantum of granite deposits available, mined and exported during the last three years, State-wise;
(c) whether the export of granite has been badly affected in the recent past and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, and;
(d) the steps taken by the Government for promotion and export of granite?

Answer

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question Number *240 for reply on 01.12.2016 regarding 'mining reforms' asked by Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete
(a): Government of India has initiated major reforms in mining sector in January/March 2015 by way of amendments in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957. The salient features of the reforms initiated include:
(i) Eliminating discretion and improving transparency in the allocation of mineral resources;
(ii) Attracting private investment in exploration and creation of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET);
(iii) Simplifying procedures and eliminate delays so as to enable expeditious and optimum development of the mineral resources of the country;
(iv) Enhance the punishment for illegal mining; and
(v) Constitution of District Mineral Foundation (DMF)
Granite being a 'minor mineral' as per MMDR Act and the Rules framed thereunder, the responsibility of framing Rules for minor minerals rests with the State Governments. In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 18 of the MMDR Act, the Central Government has made the Granite Conservation and Development Rules (GCDR), 1999 for conservation and systematic development and scientific mining to conserve, the granite reserves and to prescribe a uniform framework with regard to systematic and scientific exploitation of granite throughout the country. The implementation of the GCDR, 1999 is in the purview of State Governments. However, in the interest of development of granite industry, Government of India vide Resolution No.1/17/2015-MVI dated 01.09.2015 has reconstituted the Granite Development Council (GDC) to review the challenges of the granite industry.
(b): India accounts for over 20% of the World reserves in granite. As on 01.04.2010, reserves of granite is estimated at 46,230 million cubic metres. Of these, 264 million cubic metres falls under reserve category, while the remaining 45,966 million cubic metres falls under the resources category. State-wise details of Reserves/Resources of Granite as on 1.4.2010 is at Annexure-I. The value of granite production during the year 2012-13 was approximately Rs.6676 crore. The State-wise production of the last three years is at Annexure-II. The details of export of granite during the last three years is at Annexure-III.
(c) & (d): Granite Industry is faced with the challenge of raw-material security, modernization and upgradation of technology and increasing competition from use of synthetic material. These challenges have led to decrease in the export value of granite during the year 2015-16. The adoption of new technology, scaling up of capacity, branding and promotion by the Industry is essential for development of granite sector in the country.
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